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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

20 May 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: The Rescue of the S.S. Mayaguez and Its Crew

1. In your memorandum of 18 May, you levied three requests for data or comment on matters relating to the rescue of the S.S. Mayaguez and its crew. Attached is the response to one of these three requests outlining all of the instructions, oral or written, issued by the Intelligence Community during the Mayaguez incident.

2. The responses to the other two requests outlined in your memorandum will be forwarded by COB Friday, 23 May.

*Respectfully -*  
*W. E. Colby*  
W. E. Colby

Attachments

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20 May 1975

INTERAGENCY INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM\*

SUBJECT: The Rescue of the S.S. Mayaguez and Its Crew

1. The Intelligence Community is so organized that it responds to crisis situations in most cases without the need for specific directives or instructions. This was particularly true in the case of the Mayaguez incident, where the seizure of an American ship was immediately recognized as a matter requiring the immediate and full utilization of the Intelligence Community's resources. Beyond this general response, however, a large number of specific instructions -- oral and written -- were issued by the various intelligence agencies during the Mayaguez crisis. This memorandum contains copies of these instructions (when they were written) and descriptions of them (when they were oral).

2. In addition, the Director of Central Intelligence participated in all National Security Council meetings held during the crisis, and upon his return from each meeting issued specific oral instructions for further action by the Community. On the basis of these instructions, the National Intelligence Officer for South and Southeast Asia (NIO/SSEA), acting for the DCI, was in constant secure telephone communication with the various components of the Intelligence Community to ensure that each agency provided maximum coverage of the Mayaguez affair.

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\* This memorandum was prepared by the Central Intelligence Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, and the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Department of State.

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